PAGE 13/13 . RCVD AT 4/1/2004 1:56:08 PM [Eastern Standard Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/3 \* DNIS:8729306 \* CSID:1 415 398 3249 \* DURATION (mm-ss):03-50

Serial No.: 09/518,551

Filing Date: 3 MARCH 2000

## **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus and methods are provided for efficiently implementing logical-device reservations in a cluster computer system. The apparatus includes cooperating controllers programmed in firmware around a distributed reservation table. The apparatus manages access to a logical device, with first and second nodes with respective bus controllers communicatively coupled to each other and to a logical device by means of a bus. The first controller receives a request to reserve the logical device and, in response, communicates a reservation request for the logical device over the bus to the second controller for execution by the second controller. In response to the communicated reservation request, the second controller reserves the logical device for the first node.